at the time of assessment of proposals due to factors beyond the control of banks. Due verification is also made by banks before disbursements are actually made.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of Urban Cooperative Bank at Sopore and Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir

2717. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Urban Cooperative Bank at Sopore and Anantnag in the Jammu and Kashmir State; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to give them licence for opening the Banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that proposals for organisation of a new Urban Cooperative Bank each at Sopore and Anantnag in Jammu & Kashmir State were received by them from the State Government and they are being looked into by RBI.

Criticism of wage structure for journalists and non-journalists

2718. SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Union of Journalist has recently criticized the present wage structure for journalists and non-journalists; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The National Union of Journalists (India) criticized the recommendations of the Wage Boards on interim relief for journalists and non-journalist employees of newspapers, and had demanded upward revision of the interim rates of wages.

(b) The Government has since revised the interim rates of wages from 7.5 per cent recommended by the Wage Boards to 15 per cent of basic wages.

Working of Nabard

2719. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have failed in its objective pertaining to agricultural and rural development;

(b) whether it is a fact that instead of making available loans at reduced rates of interest the profits of NABARD have considerably increased during the last three years;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to make NABARD achieve its goal of agricultural development ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) to (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been set up for providing credit for the promotion of agriculture, small scale, cottage and village industries, handicrafts and other allied rural economic activities in an integrated manner with pointed focus and forceful direction. Since the establishment of NABARD there has been no increase in the rates of interest charged by NABARD from the constituent bankers even though the cost of funds for NABARD has increased. The amount of refinance provided by NABARD for schematic lending increased from Rs. 703 crores in 1982-83 to Rs. 1192 crores (provisional) in 1985-86 registering a growth of about 70%. The profits earned by NABARD during the 3 years since inception are indicated below :

1982.83 : Rs.93.89 crores

1983-84 : Rs. 143.30 crores

1984-85 : Rs. 184.83 crores.

The profits earned by NABARD are ploughed into the various funds maintained under the provisions of the NABARD Act, 1981 with a view to augment the resources of NABARD. The activities of NABARD are periodically reviewed by a Board of